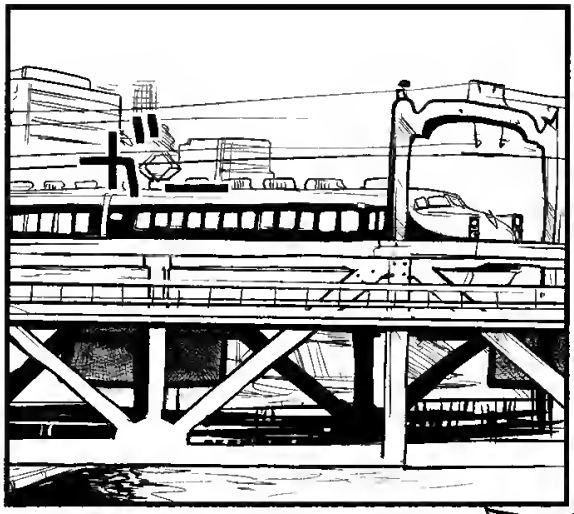
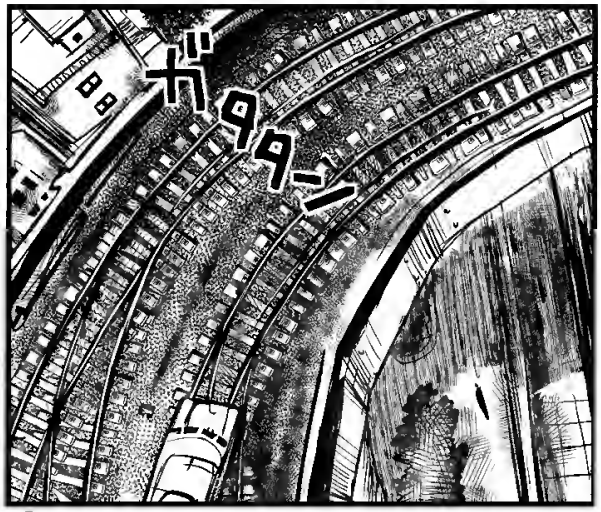
ASAKUSA
雷門
仲見世
東武電車
日光 鬼怒川 会津高原
おでかけには
東武特急
東京猫耳巡礼記
こるみば Line.2

GRANDMA SAID THAT THE ONSEN WATER SHOULD CURE MY EARS TOO.
IT'S THE SAME INN WE ALWAYS GO TO IN KINEGAWA.
GRANDMA HAS A BAD LEG, SO WE'RE GOING TO THE ONSEN.
9:20 SEMI-EXP. Kita-Kasukabe Pl.1
9:23 LOCAL Takenoyome Pl.2
9:27 LTD. EXP. Kinegawa-onsen Pl.4
NOT VERY COOL.
IT LOOKS LIKE A DOG.
A dog?
My sister is still young, so she can't comprehend its tasteful style, like that of a classic American car.
きね KINE
MINA! IT'S A WEIRD TRAIN!





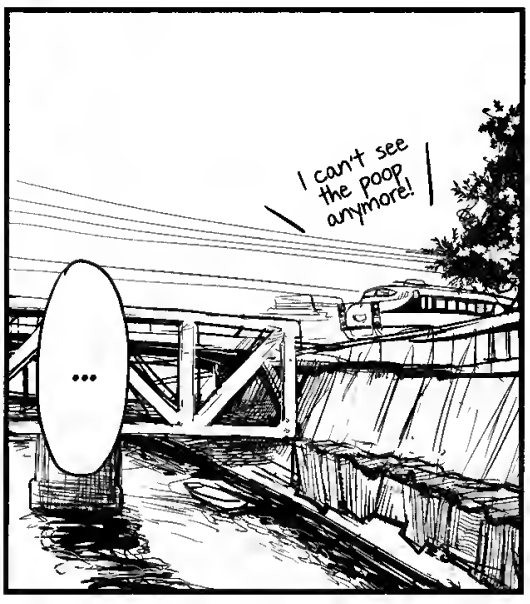
Slowly passing the Sumida River.

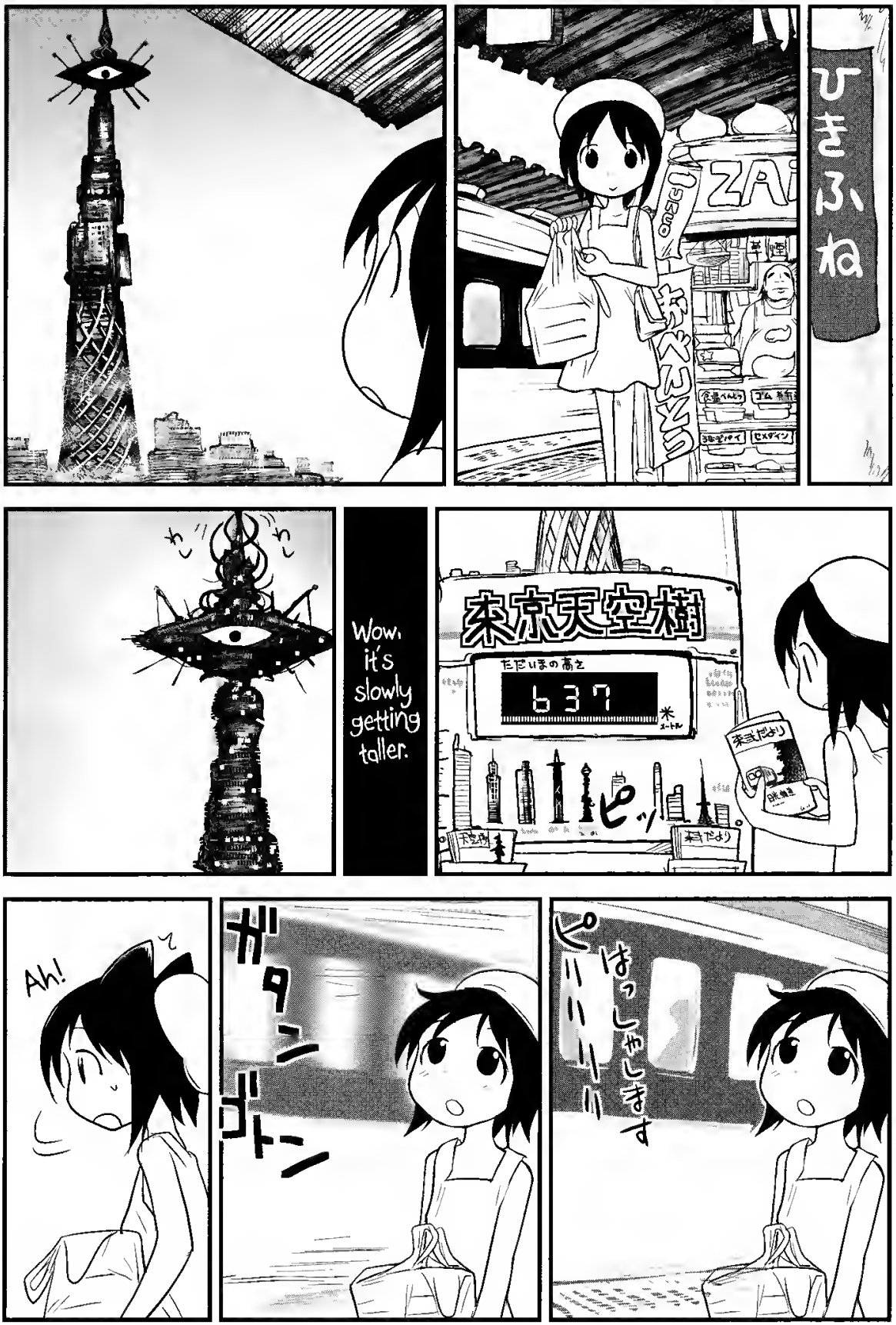
You can see the Komagata Bridge in the distance.

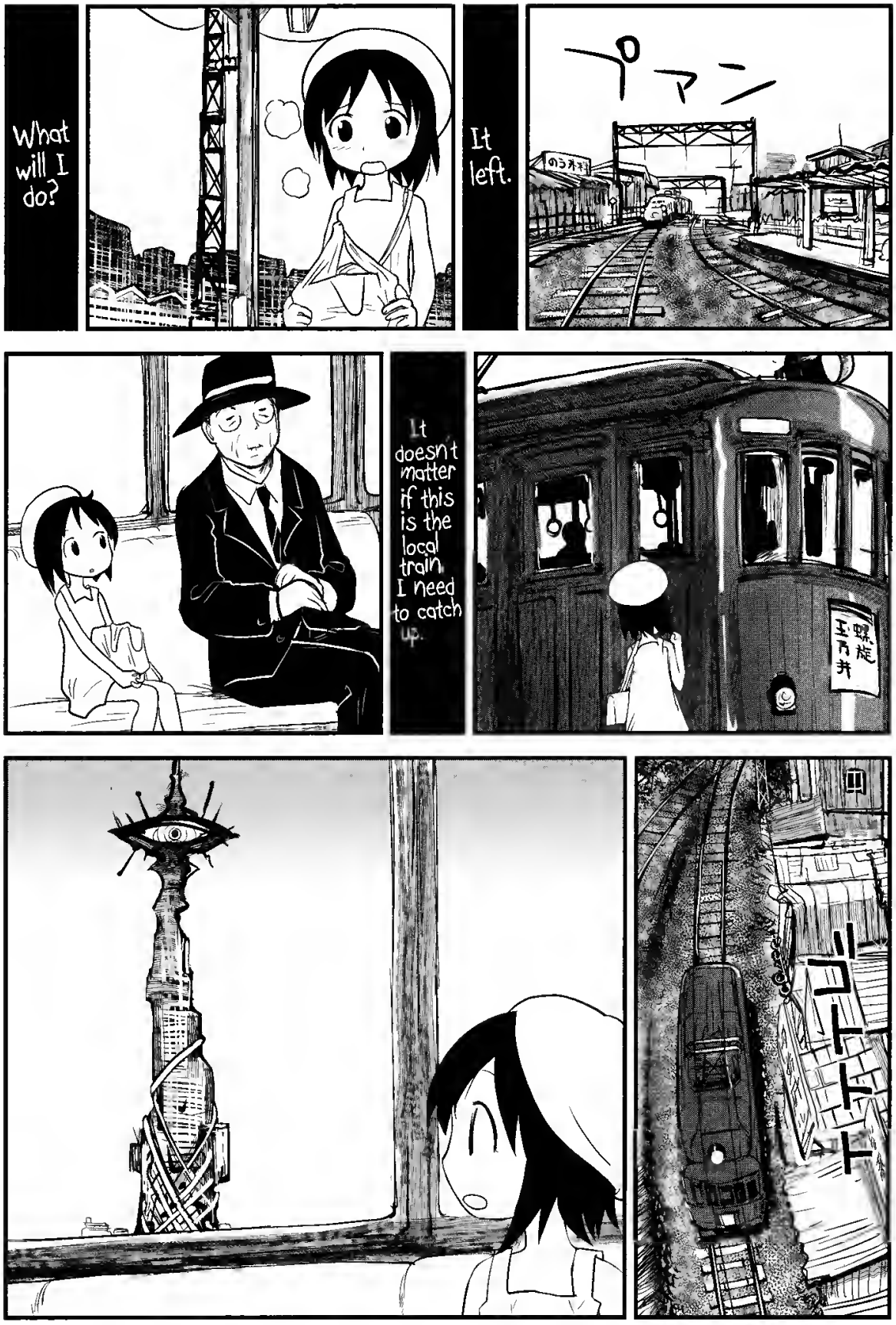
The spirit of Edo is

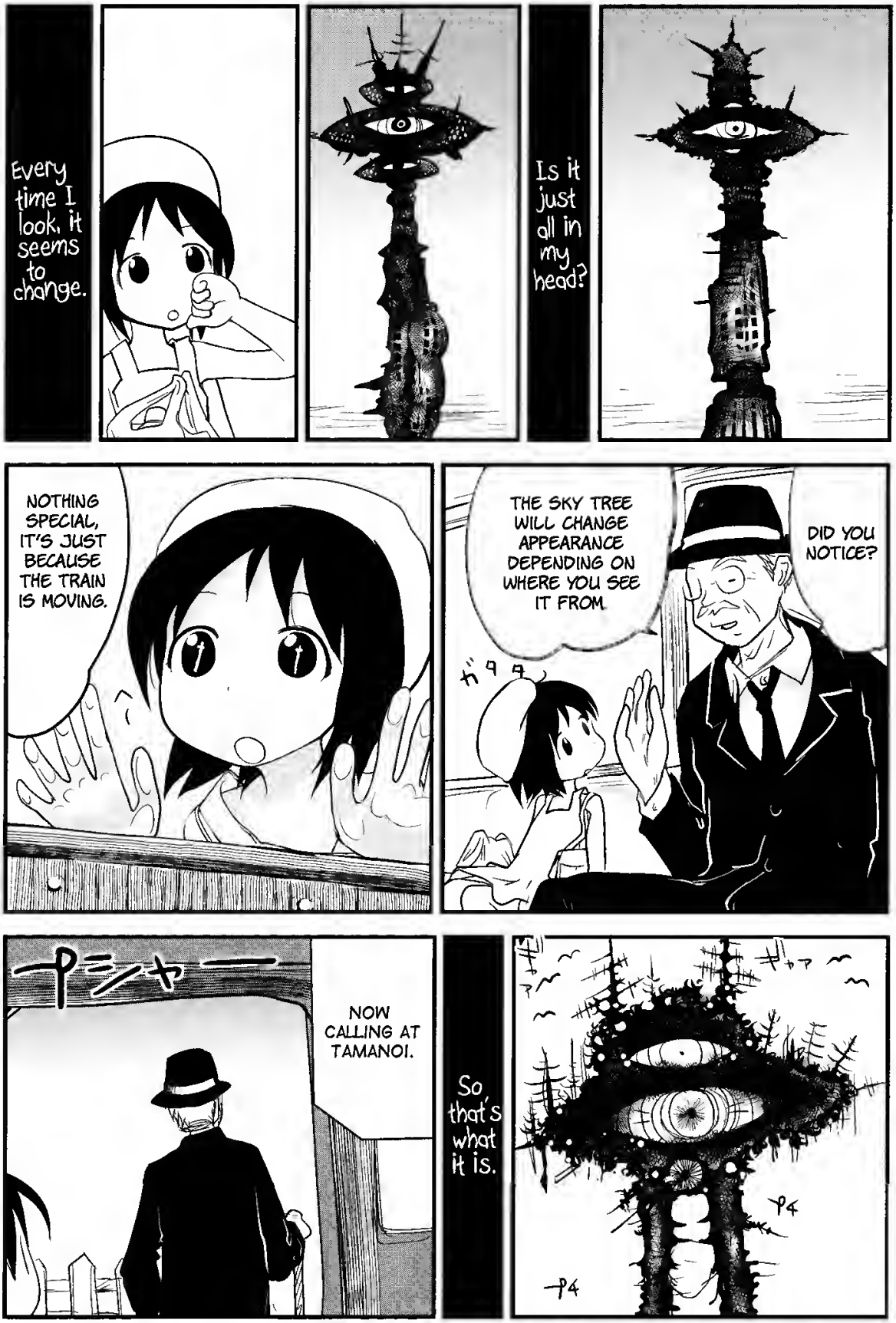
Ah.

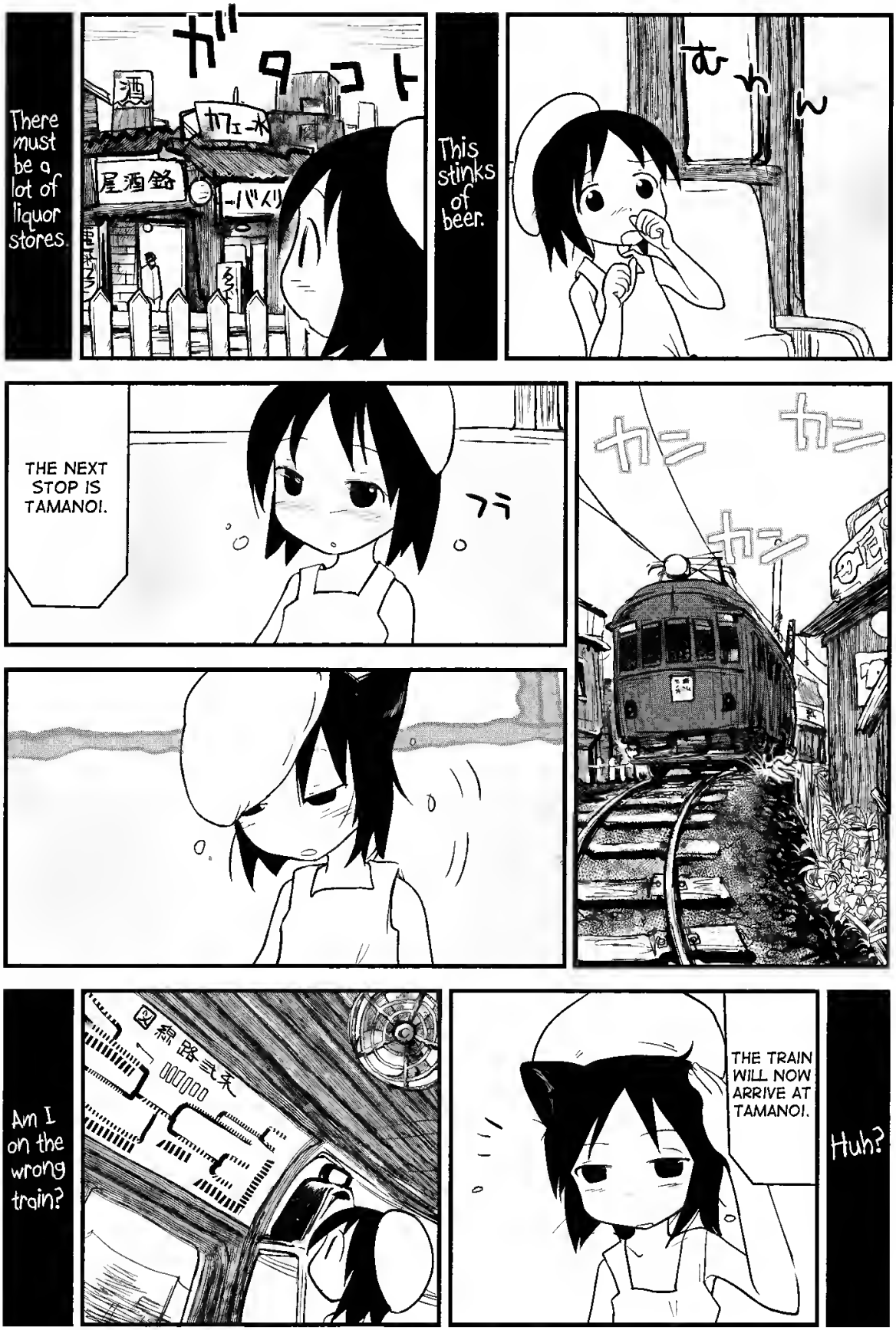
We forgot to bring our lunch.

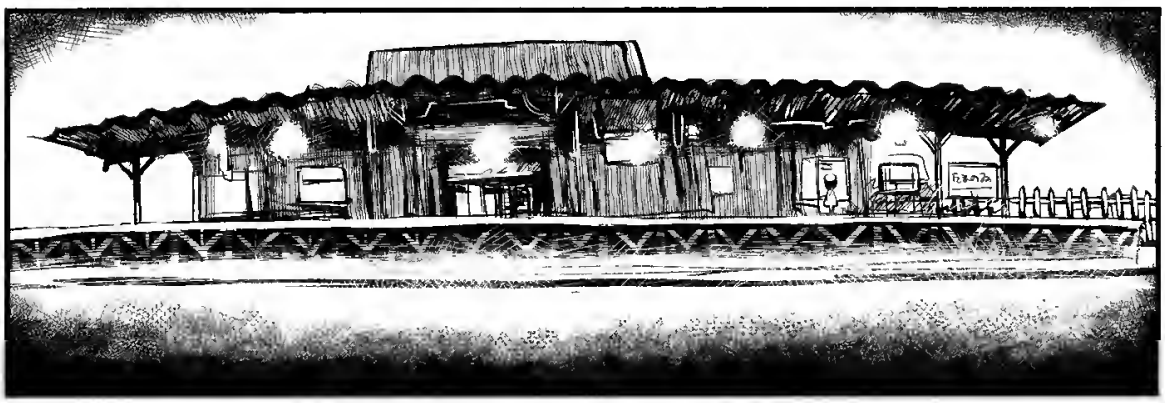



ひきふね
おべんとう
Wow, it's slowly getting taller.
東京天空樹
ただいまの高さ
637
メートル
ピッ
はっしゃします
ピーーーー
ガタンゴトン
Ah!

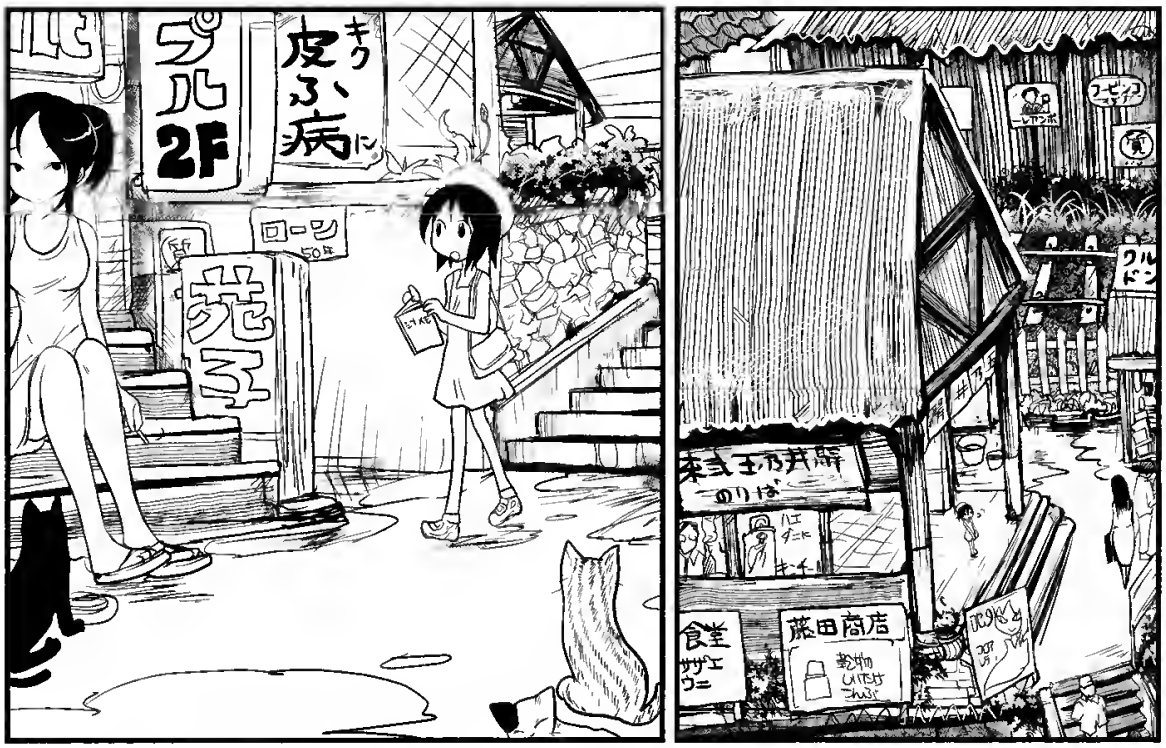

What will I do?
It left.
プァン
It doesn't matter if this is the local train. I need to catch up.
トトトト


Every time I look, it seems to change.
Is it just all in my head?
NOTHING SPECIAL, IT'S JUST BECAUSE THE TRAIN IS MOVING.
THE SKY TREE WILL CHANGE APPEARANCE DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU SEE IT FROM.
DID YOU NOTICE?
ガタン
プシャー
NOW CALLING AT TAMANOI.
So, that's what it is.
P4
P4

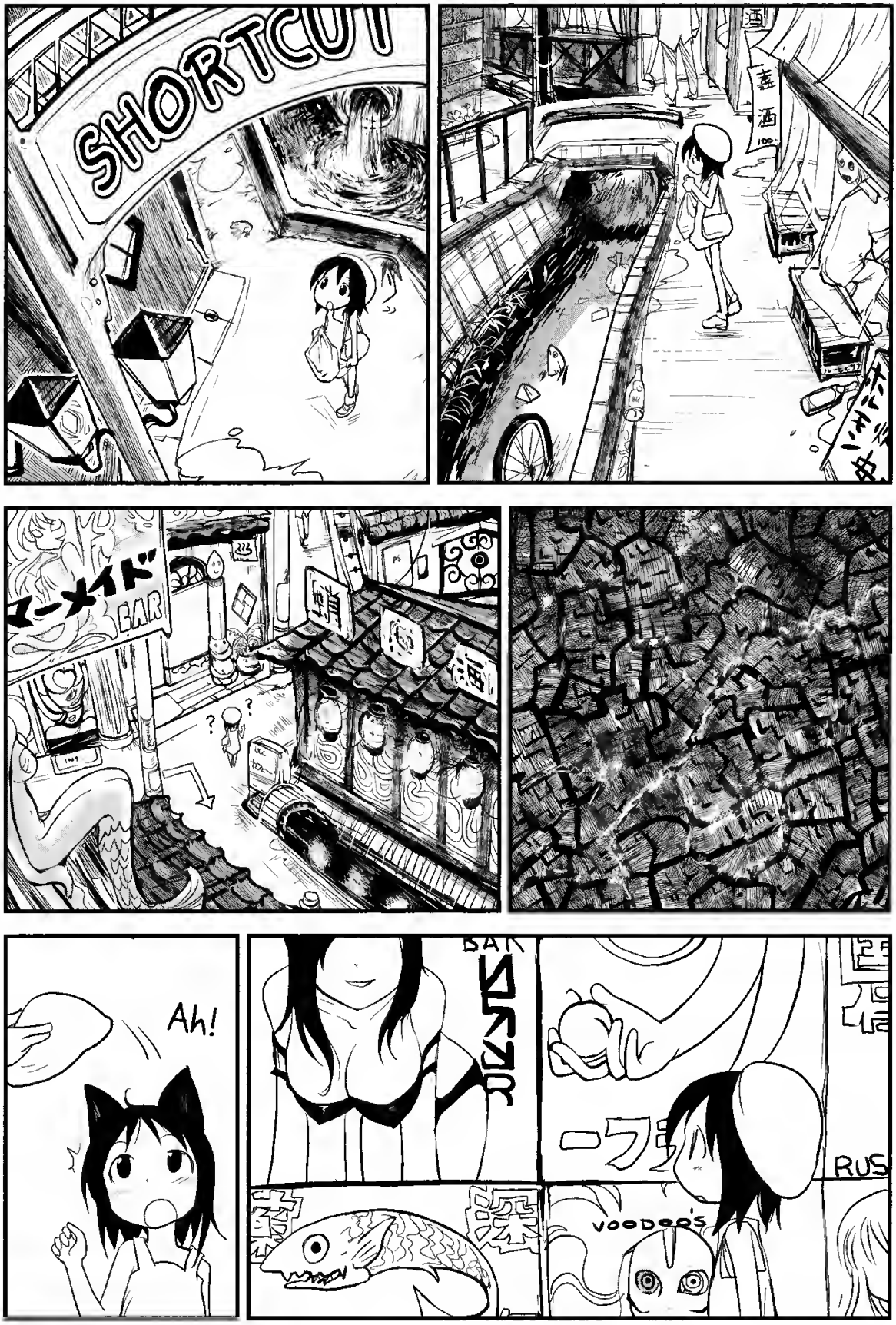

There must be a lot of liquor stores.
ガラコト
酒
カフェー
屋酒舗
バー
This stinks of beer.
むぁん
THE NEXT STOP IS TAMANOI.
フラ
カン
カン
カン
Am I on the wrong train?
図書路弐条
THE TRAIN WILL NOW ARRIVE AT TAMANOI.
Huh?



No in-bound line...?

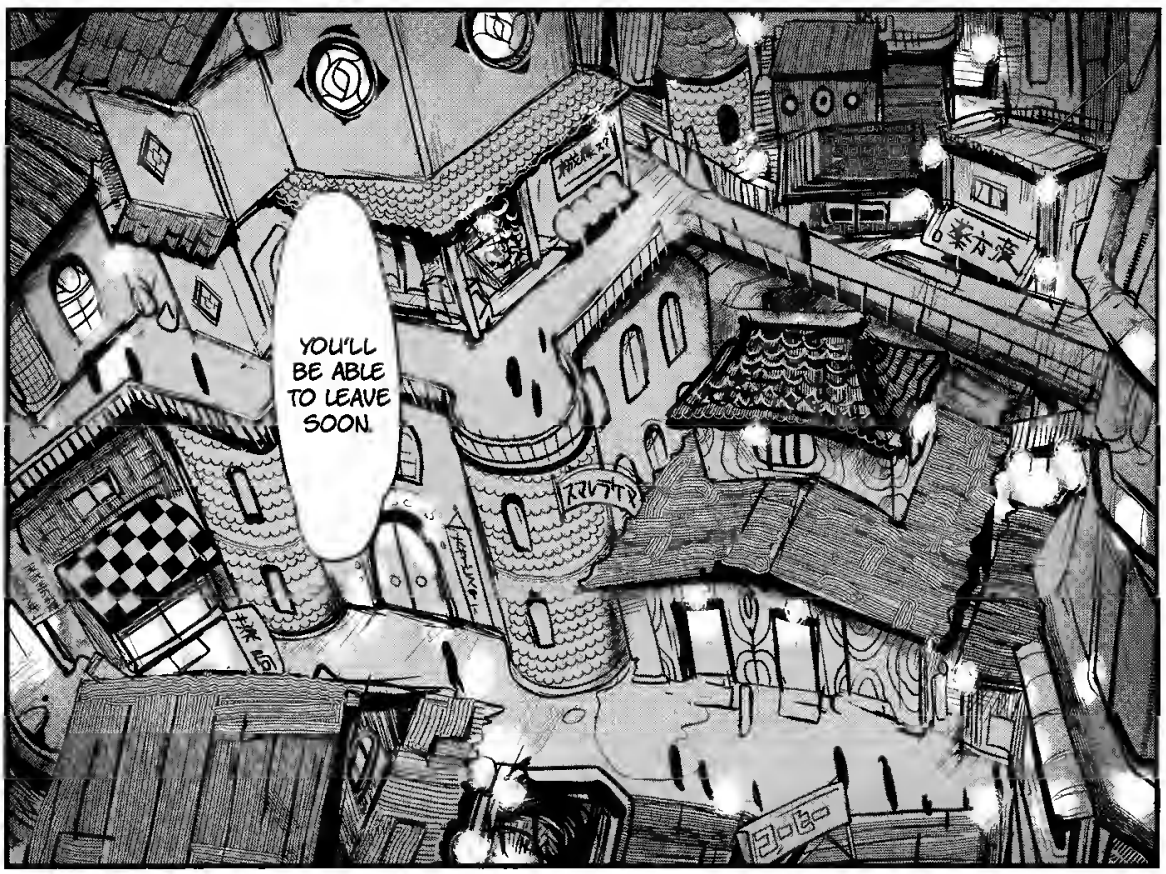


TN: TAMANOI WAS ONCE A WELL-ESTABLISHED AREA FOR UNLICENSED PROSTITUTION PRE-1958. NOW KNOWN AS HIGASHI-MUKOJIMA.

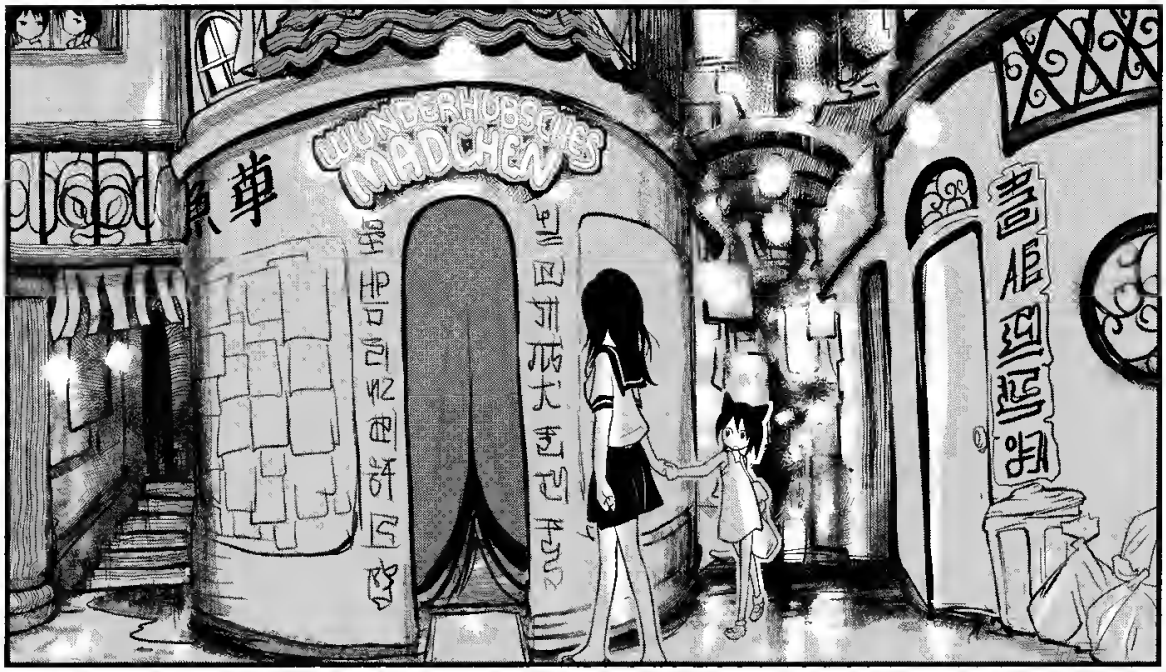

SHORTCUT
酒
一番酒
メイド
BAR
Ah!
BAR
RUS
VOODOO'S

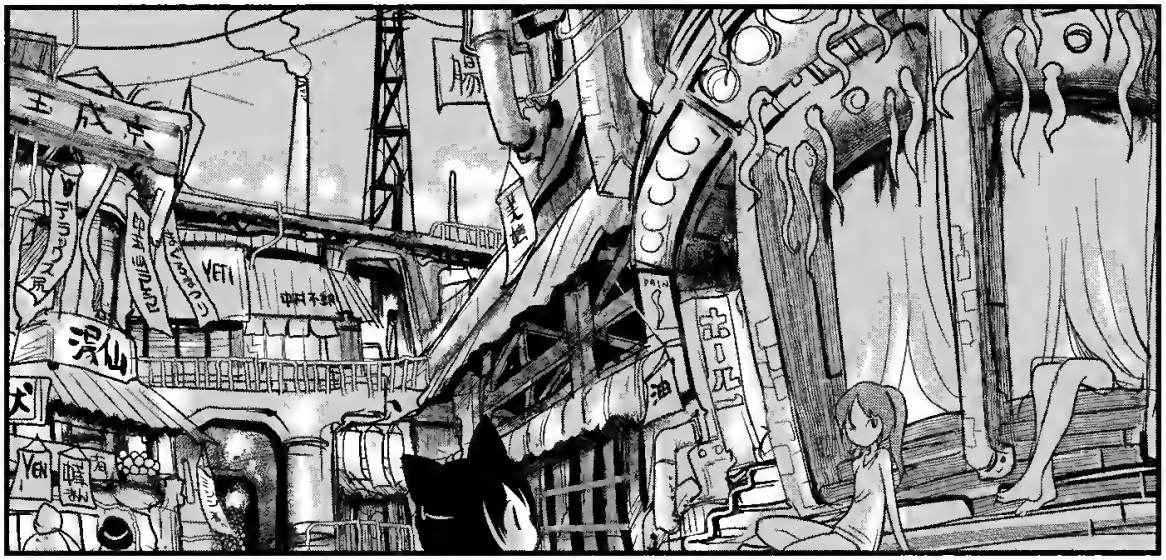
SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEBODY ELSE.
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
ARE YOU LOST?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO A SHORTCUT OUT.
THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR A CHILD.

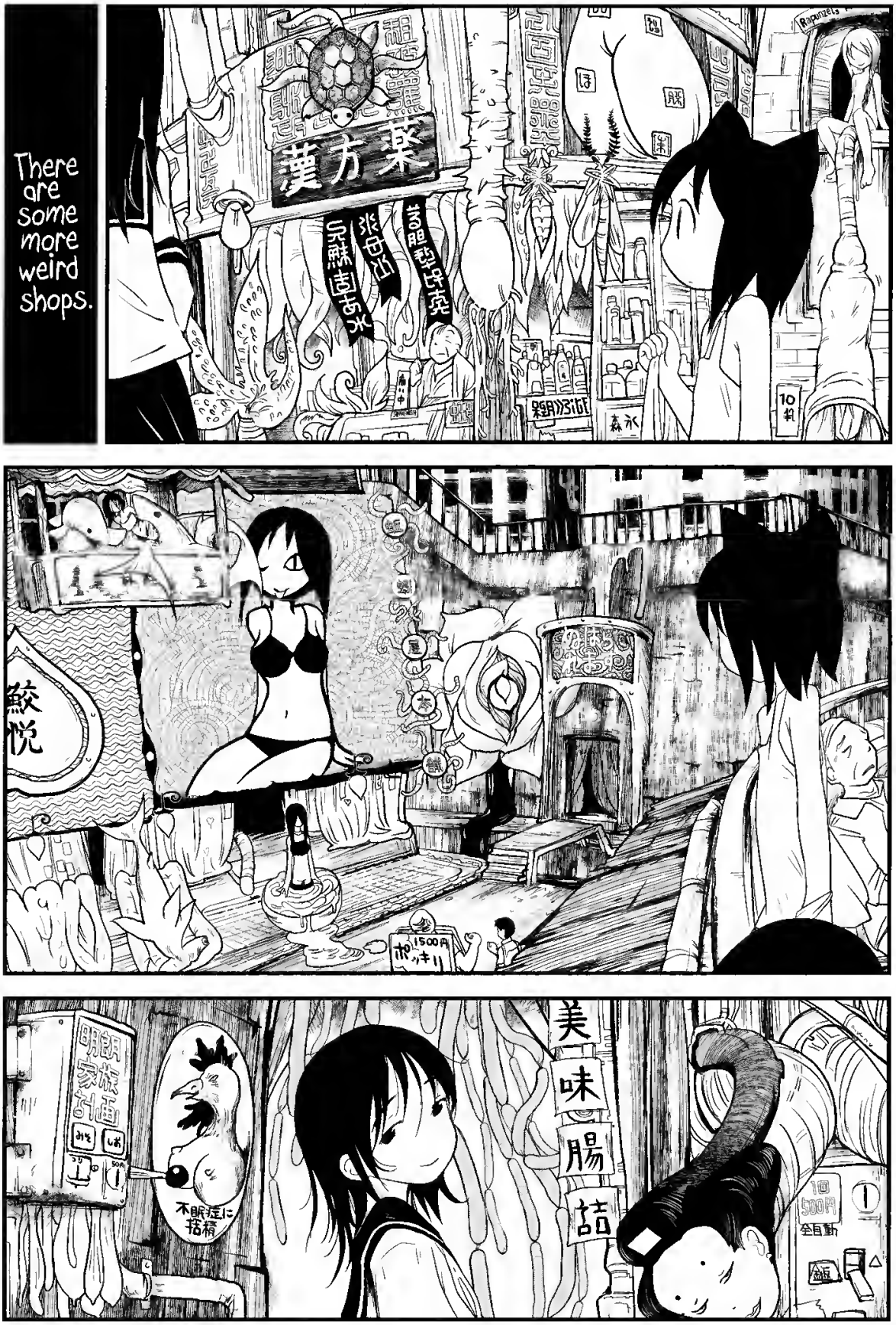

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE SOON.

嬉 娯 禮 店
PEOPLE GRADUALLY BUILT ROOMS ON WHAT LITTLE LAND WE HAD.
THERE WASN'T A LOT OF SPACE IN THIS AREA.
THE SOFT GROUND CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR GIRLS ON LOWER LEVELS.
SOME PLACES CAN ONLY FIT ONE PERSON AND THEY AREN'T ABLE TO GET BACK OUT.
IT SEEMS PATRONS OFTEN GET TRAPPED LIKE THIS.

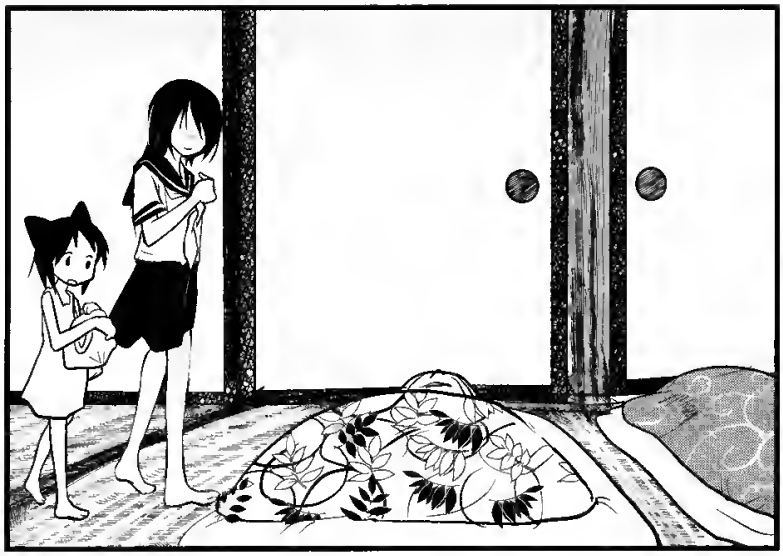

XXX
WUNDERHUBSCHES MADCHEN


YETI
ホール

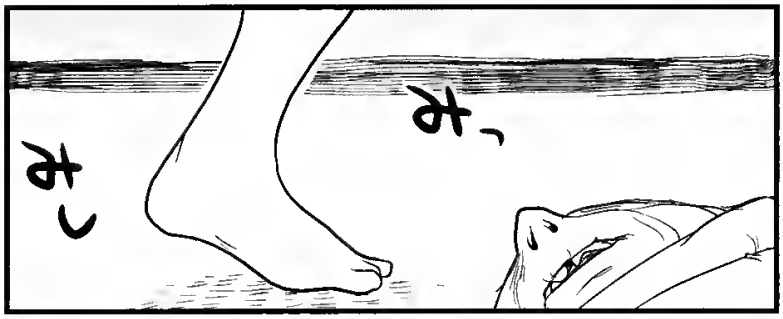
IN HERE.
YETI


There are some more weird shops.
漢方薬
Rapunzel's
鮫悦
ポッキー 1500円
美味腸詰
1回 500円
全自動
不眠症に
指精

湯郷仙
コンビニ
九十九
ローン



みし
みし

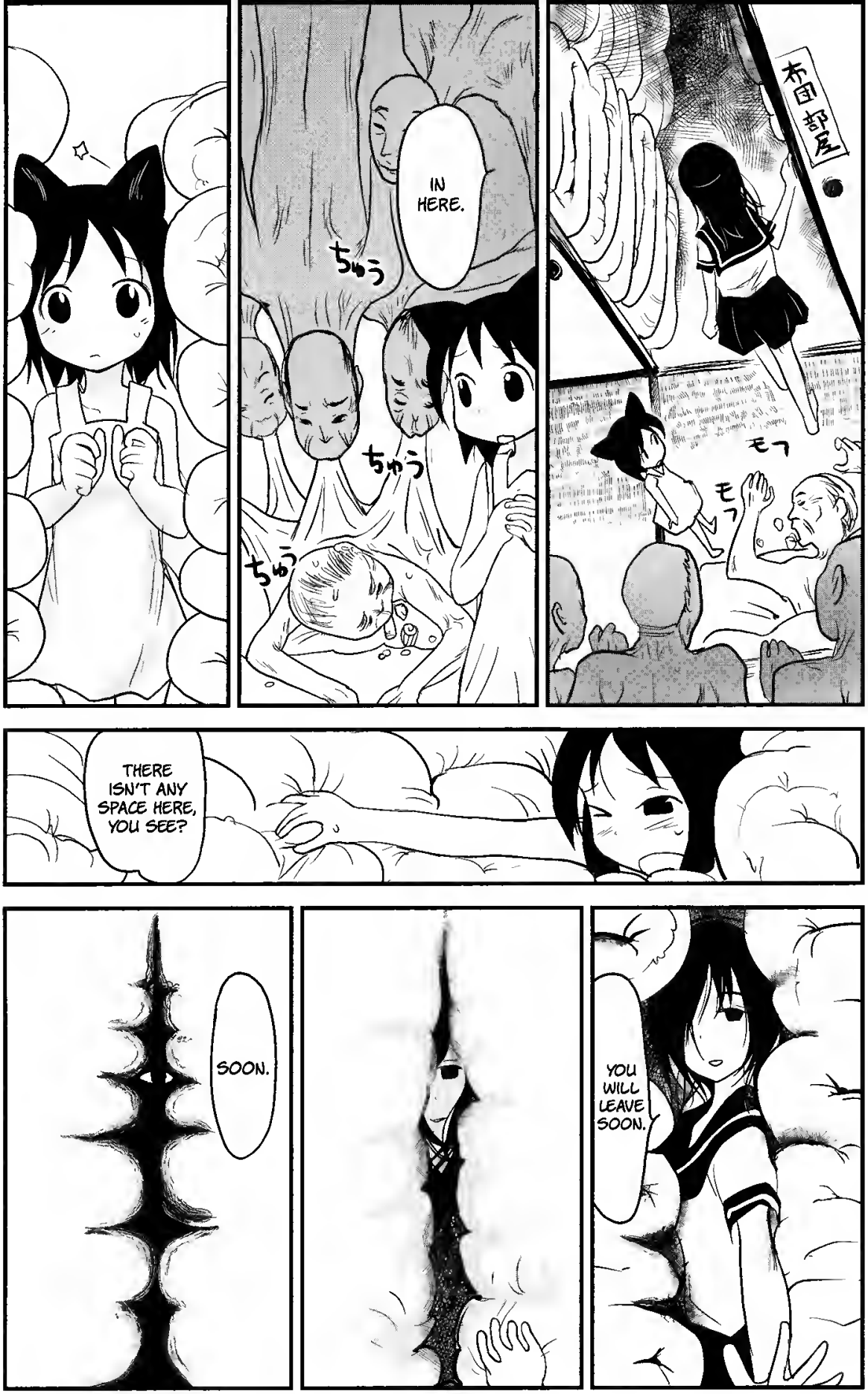

みし
み、

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FOOD?

FATHER

Grandma's...
Is it good?

I'LL SHOW YOU THE SHORTCUT.
MY APOLO-GIES.
OH MY.


本田部屋
モフ
モフ
IN HERE.
ちゅう
ちゅう
ちゅう
THERE ISN'T ANY SPACE HERE, YOU SEE?
SOON.
YOU WILL LEAVE SOON.

Fin

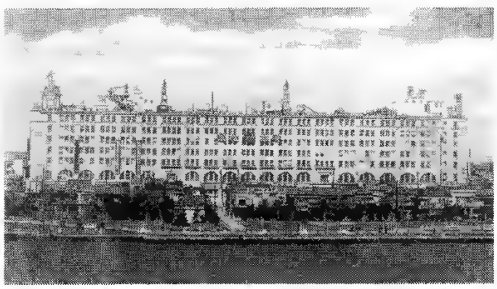
東京猫耳巡礼記
とうみゃ1

~Railway Company Guide~ II

Tobu Railway Co., Isesaki-Nikko Line

Asakusa to Tobu Nikko

Connecting people to world famous sights from the Sky Tree in Asakusa all the way to Nikko.



• *A full view of the terminal building at Asakusa Station, which also hosts a 'Bokuya' Department Store branch.*

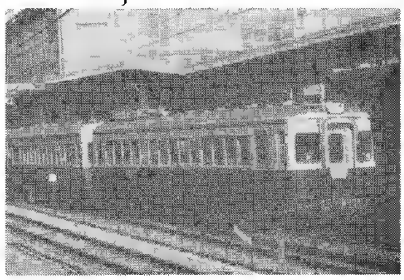
With the northern Kanto region as its central area, Tobu Railways boasts one of the longest lines in Kanto, approximately 500km. The Isesaki Line, which was opened first as its main line, was connected to the famous sightseeing spot, Nikko.

In the past, it took a four-day, three-night trip to walk along the Nikko Highway from Tokyo to Nikko, but once the railroad was built, it became an easy trip, and tourism experienced a rapid boom. After that, Nikko, along with the nearby hot springs in Kinugawa and Hakone, all led to the development of this area as the so-called 'Getaway of Tokyo'. And carrying passengers to these tourist hotspots are Tobu's express romance cars, Hagon and Kine, the pride of the railway.

At the same time, the portion of the line that runs through Tokyo's outer districts, from its start point in Asakusa to the area around Kitasenju, has its own share of sights to see. For starters, just in Asakusa alone there is the Asakusa Temple, the flower gardens, and Asakusa's 6th District among other famous spots, and it needs no mention that these places attract many visitors from all over the world.

The newest sight gathering attention in Asakusa is the 'Tokyo Sky Tree'. This newly built tourism spot likely needs no introduction. The closest station, Gokabashi Station, which also used to be the starting point of the Isesaki Line, used to be your average local station, just another stop. However, with the Sky Tree now complete, it is experiencing unprecedented activity.

In addition, while slightly different from the typical sightseeing spots, if you go two stations out from Gokabashi Station you will find Tamanoi, the famous unlicensed prostitution area mentioned in novels and manga such as Nagai Kafu's 'A Strange Tale from East of the River' and Takita Yuu's 'A Strange Tale from Terajima.' There are said to be between 1000 to 3000 women working here where the streets and alleys are like a maze, and even the police cannot give any reliable information about the area, but one thing is certain: it is one of Japan's prominent night spots. If you walk in the opposite direction from the station, you will find yourself in the red light district 'Ikaruga.' (Under direction from the police, shops here have the unique trait of appearing to be cafes) You will often see men on their way home at night on the Tobu Railway make a stop off at this station.



• *A 5700 series stopped at Kitasenju Station, used as a special express to Nikko.*

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CHAPTER NOTES
~TAMANOI~

Most of the notes here can be seen in panels on pages 41-44 (images 009-012).

Tamanoi was once a well-established area for unlicensed prostitution pre-1958, similar to what we call a red-light district. The area itself is now known as Higashi-Mukoujima after the train station was renamed as such in the year 1987.

Tamanoi, Asakusa, formed during the reconstruction that spawned from the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, as increasingly popular brothels and liquor stores expanded from Kototoi-dori. The growth was assisted by the addition of road and direct rail services.

Prior to the war, the brothels were built as tightly packed two-floor tenements, with narrow frontage. Each store normally had 1-2 females and girls would call in customers through small windows. Since Tamanoi was built upon paddy fields and densely populated, the ground level would get extremely muddy during periods of rain. According to statistics provided by the Terashima Police Station, in 1933 the number of brothels was counted as 497, employing up to a thousand women. However there may have been many more. Due to the densely packed buildings and quick yet haphazard expansion of the area, it was seen as to be navigating a labyrinth.

The sign (top right) was a prominent landmark. Read as 'nukeraremasu', which could be seen as having a meaning similar to shortcut or passageway, they adorned alleyways and were used as shortcuts, as finding exits proved difficult. The wording used on the sign does also carry some additional meanings. Skirting the law, 'loophole,' and to put it softly, what we would call a 'happy ending.'

During World War II, Tamanoi was home to crowds of workers and soldiers in munitions factories, until most of the town was destroyed during the Tokyo air raid of March 10th, 1945. Post-war, there was little left of the area itself. Business shifted to Terajimachou 7-chome (now part of Sumida 3-chome) and still held onto some of its unique atmosphere.

After the enforcement of the prostitution prevention law, the area slowly transformed into a typical downtown district, still hosting bars to some extent. Men still visited and stores remained open even with the absence of prostitutes. Presently, there are still aging buildings and liquor stores near Sumida 3-chome dating back to post-war Tamanoi.

Presented by:
NotLemon, Greenmeido, ZaBearudo, Elemhunter, SevenFacedBird

KATYUSHA